

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes X
no

Property Name: Power Plant, Spring Grove Inventory Number: BA-2333
Address: Spring Grove Hospital City: Catonsville Zip Code:
County: Baltimore County USGS Topographic Map: Baltimore West
Owner: DHMH Is the property being evaluated a district? yes
Tax Parcel Number: Tax Map Number: Tax Account ID Number:
Project: Agency:
Site visit by MHT staff: no X yes Name: L. Bowlin, 1985 Date:
Is the property is located within a historic district? X yes no

If the property is within a district District Inventory Number: BA-2319
NR-listed district yes Eligible district X yes Name of District: Spring Grove Hospital Center
Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource X yes no Non-contributing but eligible in another context yes

If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district) Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible yes no

Criteria: X A B X C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in:

#BA 157 (Bowlin, 1986); Project Review & Compliance Files; Spring Grove Architectural Survey Notebook

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

Spring Grove Hospital Center, Catonsville, Baltimore County was initially determined eligible for the Maryland Register of Historic Properties in 1986. Trust policy is that any property eligible for the MRHP is also eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Spring Grove is eligible under Criterion A, events, as the first state-sponsored facility for the mentally ill. The hospital had its origins in 1797 where the indigent sick and insane were cared for in Baltimore. By 1872 the hospital had outgrown its site and the state chose a new 200-acresite in Catonsville. The District is also eligible under Criterion C, as an architectural example. The hospital center does not have a specific layout, but rather its growth and development are demonstrated through the construction of buildings in response to new needs and developments in the care of the mentally ill. The 1985 survey included 25 buildings built between 1872 and 1944. All are eligible contributing resources to the historic district. [*from Spring Grove Hospital Center DOE]

As a result of the recently completed survey, 25 buildings have been determined to be historically and architecturally significant to the development of public mental health care in Maryland at Spring Grove Hospital Center.

This property, BA-2333, Power Plant, was included on the list of significant properties.

(See Bowlin, 1985)

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended X Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: X A B X C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None

MHT Comments

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Reviewer, NR Program

Date

NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Power Plant, Spring Grove

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BA-2333

Prepared by: L. Bowlin, 1985 (MHT)

Date Prepared: _____

BA-2333

1931

Power Plant

Public

Spring Grove Hospital Center

Catonsville

The Power Plant is a flemish bond brick building with a steeply-pitched gable roof measuring seven bays long and four bays deep. A cross gable pavillion projects from the roof and ends in an cylindrical smokestack.

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. BA-2333

Magi No. 0323334816

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Power Plant

and/or common

2. Location

street & number

☐ not for publication

city, town Catonsville

☐ vicinity of

congressional district 3

state Maryland

county Baltimore

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

street & number 201 West Preston Street

telephone no.: 301-225-6816

city, town Baltimore

state and zip code Maryland 21201

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse

liber

street & number

folio

city, town Towson

state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

ie

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Survey No.

BA-2333

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Oriented to the east, the Power Plant Building is a large flemish bond brick structure. Though there is only one floor, the building stands approximately four stories tall due to the steeply-pitched gable roof and the machinery located inside. Constructed in 1931, the power plant is located adjacent to the Bloomsbury Avenue entrance.

The plant measures seven bays long and four bays deep. Constructed with steel trusses, the building's structural condition is very good for the building's age. A cross gable pavilion interrupts the gable roof on the eastern facade and connects to the octagonal base of a smokestack. The cylindrical smokestack is made of header bond brick and is distinguished by a water table. Corbelling decorates the top of the smokestack.

The fenestration displays a distinct pattern. The eastern and western walls have matching window treatments. The windows consist of brick sills, metal surrounds, and six sashes with eight panes in each. Additional windows appear in shed dormers. Each dormer has five windows of 8/4 sashes, metal surrounds and metal sills.

The northern and southern walls reveal a steep gable end with closed verges. Just below the peak of the gable is an air vent with metal louvers and a rowlock brick sill. A large segmented arch lintel spans the width of the wall. A quadrant window exists underneath the arch and conforms to the segmental shape of the lintel. Each section of the quadrant window has its own rowlock brick sill. Only on the southern face, the windows are interrupted by a projecting two-story block with a flat roof and stone cornice. These gabled ends of the southern and northern walls exhibit some doorways. The southern wall has a single door with a three pane transom and stone sill. Plus, there is a large, central metal door. The retractable door has wooden surrounds and a cement sill. The northern wall has a single, altered door.

The building does function as a power plant. The equipment has been updated when necessary. The most noticeable alteration to the building itself is the series of brick patches and door alterations of the western face.

8. Significance

Survey No.

BA-2333

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1931	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1931

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☒ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Power Plant, constructed in 1931, was another concrete example of the growth of Spring Grove. The existing powerhouse would not have been able to handle the energy demands of the hospital with the anticipated building program of the 1930's. A new power plant became one of the first construction projects on the hospital's agenda. In addition to the power plant, the public utilities of the hospital were increased to match rising requirements. These improvements of the hospital's source of energy totaled a sum of \$175,000.

The construction of the new power plant also signified a move toward efficient modernization. The hospital had been functioning from the original powerhouse and the new power plant boasted of the best machinery of the 1930's. Without an efficient power source, the anticipated building program would not have been feasible. The power plant also enabled the hospital to continue as a self-sufficient unit generating its own power, producing its food and material goods, and maintaining its physical plant.

The architecture of the power plant is vernacular and functional. The brick structure was built on the eastern portion of the hospital property, near the Bloomsbury Avenue Gatehouse, but essentially the building stood alone, away from the hospital buildings. Adjacent to the railroad line, the power plant had easy access to its coal delivery. The setting of the building has been retained, and because the building still houses the power-generating equipment, the historical association is quite vivid.



BA-2333

POWER PLANT

SPRING GROVE HOSPITAL CENTER

CATONSVILLE, MARYLAND

EAST WALL

DON JEWELL, 4/86

NEGATIVES AT MHT



BA-2333

POWER PLANT

SPRING GROVE HOSPITAL CENTER

CATONSVILLE, MARYLAND

SOUTH WALL

DON JEWELL, 4/86

NEGATIVES AT MHT